

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 /074 W

----- 117377

R 060545Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5895

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO GOVERNMENT OPENS FOOD STORE FOR DIPLOMATS

REF: VIENTIANE 0005 (020614Z JAN 76)

1. THE LAO GOVERNMENT ON JANUARY 5 OPENED A FOOD STORE FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT THE PREMISES OF THE FORMER LAO-APACHE FOOD STORE ON SAMSENTHAI STREET. ON ITS FIRST DAY OF OPERATION THE STORE WAS SELLING BEEF, PORK AND FISH FOR DOLLARS AND SOME VEGETABLES FOR KIP, THE LATTER AT PRICES CONSIDERABLY IN EXCESS OF THOSE IN THE MARKET. CUSTOMERS MUST SHOW THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER CURRENCIES, INCLUDING BAHT AND FRANCS, ARE OR SOON WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE STORE.

2. IF THE SHOP REMAINS WELL STOCKED, IT SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. MEAT HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE IN THE MORNING MARKET FOR SOME TIME (REFTEL). THE DIPLOMATIC STORE'S MEAT PRICES, THOUGH
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CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THOSE THAT PREVAILED IN THE

MARKET WHEN MEAT WAS LAST AVAILABLE, ARE MODERATE BY U.S.
STANDARDS. THE VEGETABLE PRICES ARE HIGHWAY ROBBERY
IF CALCULATED AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF 1200 KIP TO THE
DOLLAR; AT THE CURB-MARKET RATE THEY ARE MERELY EXPENSIVE.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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